

Goals and Policy Recommendations

GOALS—values, mission statements, desired results
POLICIES—guidelines for action to achieve goals

Field observations, a public hearing, and the *Montopolis Area Study* (1985) provided a basis for developing goals and policy recommendations for the Colorado River Corridor. Inventory and analysis of existing conditions in the study area provided a framework for identifying issues and concerns. A public hearing reflected citizens' high regard and concern for the Corridor. The *Montopolis Area Study* provided additional definitive natural resource information. Taken together, this information is believed to be adequate for goal formulation and policy development.

It is readily apparent that empirical research is needed to assess public opinion and obtain more definitive information on land and water characteristics of the river corridor. Such scientific surveys will lend additional credence and expand the initial brief assessment effort.

The assessment assumes that citizens of Austin care about the Colorado River as evidenced by legal challenges related to overloaded treatment plants and impacts on water quality. Evidence of significant recreation participation on the river is indicative of the high value placed on scenic and recreation qualities.

The goals which follow reflect desired results for the Corridor. The policies are guidelines for action to achieve the goals.

Water Quality

GOAL 1.00 Reclaim water quality of the Colorado River to establish a level of purity which allows full public recreation contact.

Policy 1.01 Establish commitment to and time frames for Austin to become a model to achieve highest possible water quality standards, especially for wastewater effluent including tertiary treatment.

Policy 1.02 Develop a more complete water quality monitoring program geared to three subzones of the Colorado River below Longhorn Dam.

Policy 1.03 Develop an information program to increase public awareness of river water quality as it affects recreation potential (safe and non-safe areas).

Policy 1.04 Develop a comprehensive information base concerning river hydrology and develop a strategic plan for addressing multiple objectives of recreation, drainage, shoreline restoration and revegetation.

Policy 1.05 Implement watershed protection strategies to protect the water quality of the Colorado River including requirements for detention, fill, overland flow, urban runoff, erosion control, grassland swales, restriction of construction on slopes, and litter abatement.

Policy 1.06 Encourage appropriate public agencies to initiate a massive litter and

shoreline clean-up program with initial priority placed on public lands.

Land Use

GOAL 2.00 Aggressively protect and enhance the scenic and recreational potential of the Colorado River through means of accelerated land use planning.

Policy 2.01 Immediately develop a program to annex the south bank of the Colorado River.

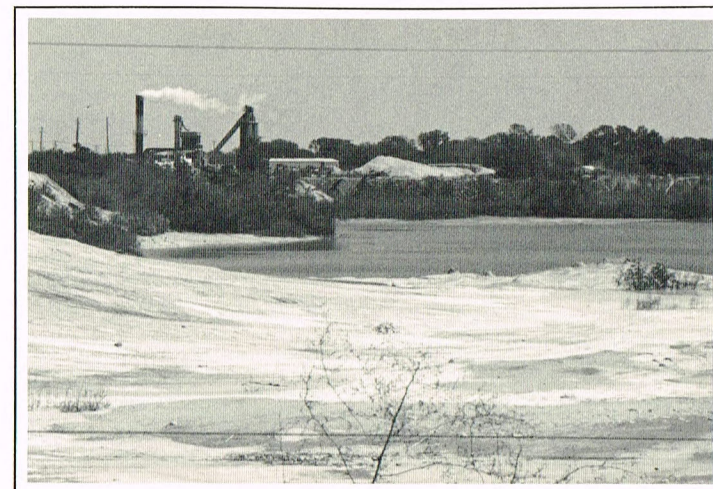
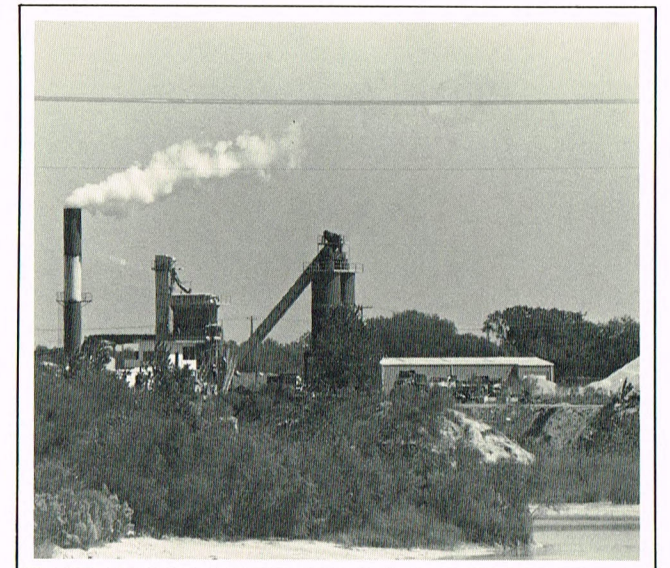
Policy 2.02 Initiate a comprehensive land use planning program for the river corridor; immediately develop land use policies and regulations for compatibility.

Policy 2.03 Form a riverfront coalition of property owners, public agencies and institutions to coordinate development interests and exchange information.

Policy 2.04 Maintain the natural shoreline and bluffs along the riverfront except for necessary stabilization and appropriate riverfront uses.

Policy 2.05 Strengthen law enforcement and security in the area to upgrade and assure a safe recreation environment.

Policy 2.06 Immediately investigate resource extraction permitting procedures and determine if strategies can be developed to create improved compatibility of these activities with the river environment.



Zoning

GOAL 3.00 Improve zoning in the Colorado River Corridor to achieve highest degree of land use compatibility.

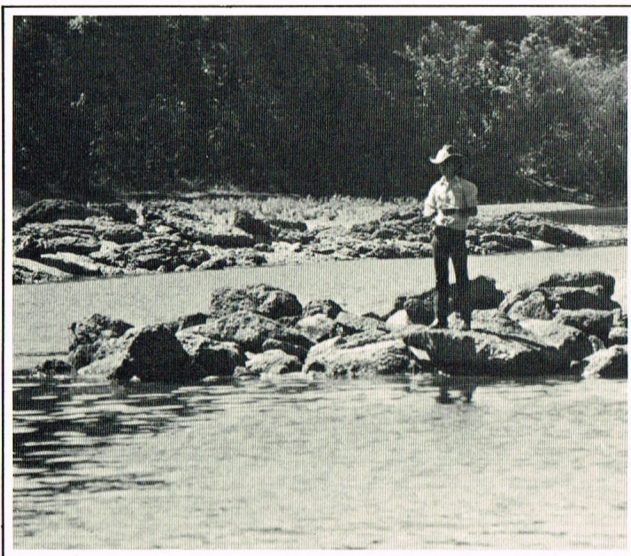
Policy 3.01 Immediately rezone properties to a revised "W" Waterfront zone district.

Policy 3.02 Create a new overlay zone with design criteria geared to special characteristics of development zones.

Policy 3.03 Eliminate all industrial and noncompatible uses from Longhorn Dam to the confluence with Walnut Creek; downzone to a more compatible use; phase out resource extraction.

Policy 3.04 Develop performance criteria for existing resource extraction operations, including shoreline restoration and revegetation plans; preserve potential for future public access and use.

Policy 3.05 Develop design guidelines for private projects along the river's edge.



Recreation Suitability and Potential

GOAL 4.00 Develop a strategic land acquisition plan and aggressively obtain additional parkland on the Colorado River using innovative methods.

Policy 4.01 Extend parkland from Longhorn Dam to the Govalle Wastewater Treatment Plant on both banks of the river.

Policy 4.02 Aggressively pursue greenbelt acquisition on Walnut and Boggy Creeks with highest priority at the confluences.

Policy 4.03 Determine constraints and potential for public use of the river including study of currents, water release impacts, hazards, and water quality.

Policy 4.04 Investigate potential for improving public access to and enjoyment of the Colorado River at the Krieg Complex.

GOAL 5.00 Create an innovative funding process for establishing a Colorado River Metropolitan Park, a minimum area of 200 acres.

Policy 5.01 Assure the City's goals for parkland acquisition are part of a strategic plan for roadway and other public improvements; special urgency should be given to the Montopolis area.

Policy 5.02 Develop a master plan and secure additional funding for development of existing parkland.

Policy 5.03 Explore a wide range of land acquisition methods including conservation

easements, tax incentives and transfer of development rights.

Access

GOAL 6.00 Provide maximum visual and physical access to the Colorado River.

Policy 6.01 Develop a plan to secure public access easements along the shoreline from Longhorn Dam to the confluence with Walnut Creek.

Policy 6.02 Immediately develop a joint use agreement with the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation to upgrade and improve the public access area underneath the Montopolis Bridge.

Policy 6.03 Coordinate with Travis County in providing additional public access to the river.

Policy 6.04 Identify and analyze visual values, attributes and view corridors; develop and implement a plan for protection and enhancement.

Policy 6.05 Incorporate overlook park and amenity considerations into the Grove Boulevard/East Riverside CIP roadway project.

Natural Resources

GOAL 7.00 Protect, enhance and interpret natural values and environmentally sensitive areas of the Colorado River Corridor.

Policy 7.01 Conduct a comprehensive survey of natural and cultural values along the

Colorado River from Longhorn Dam to the confluence with Walnut Creek.

Policy 7.02 Require environmental impact studies, archaeological surveys and mitigation measures for all new development along the river.

Policy 7.03 Maintain the natural shoreline and bluffs along the riverfront.